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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE:

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Notes on Mines and Industries

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PAGES 1 May 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

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Prior to 12 November 1946

1. In two quarries at Yessel (sic), an adobe village for Russian exiles, stone is broken for paving blocks and for supports for the one-track railway dam to prevent soil erosion during the winter floods. (Possible Yessaulsk, 55° 30'N, 60°25'E.)

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Prior to 5 November 1946

2. In the Sverdlovsk district (Urals) there are five camps, each housing 3,000 German PWs, Romanians from Bessarabia, and Hungarians; there are no ethnical Germans. Ore from the copper mine in the vicinity is transported in special cars (hopper cars) of British and American manufacture to furnaces 50-70 kms. away. The railroad is double-tracked; the engines are in good condition and are regularly overhauled and painted. There is little or no mechanical equipment in the mine (only one saw). The mine employs 2,000 men.

Prior to 17 October 1946

3. In Voroshilovsk (approx. 48°30'N, 38°30'E) there is a coke plant where PWs worked in day and night shifts comprising 1,000 men each. Adjoining the plant was an iron works of the same size. These two plants were the only ones in the locality.

August 1946

4. An average of 3,000 PWs worked a 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. shift in the mines at Yuraks (unlocated) in the southern Urals, from which lead, mercury, and iron ore were extracted. There were almost no Russians in the district. Even the foremen, overseers, and mine managers were German PWs or civilian internees. The equipment consisted of electrically operated Russian machines; these were fairly modern, had seen a great deal of use, but were very resistant. With the exception of American-made mechanical shovels, the tools also were of Russian manufacture.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

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Extracted by r.i.R.